CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:

(a) transmitting from a web server a hypertext document, the hypertext document including an indication of a selection criterion of a group of codesets, wherein the group of codesets is stored in a central database of codesets;

(b) receiving onto the web server a designation of the selection criterion from a web client; and

(c) selecting a plurality of codesets of the group of codesets using the designation of the selection criterion.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of codesets of the group of codesets in (c) includes all codesets in the group of codesets.

3. The method of claim 1, wherien the plurality of codesets of the group of codesets in (c) is a subset of the codesets of the group of codesets.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the hypertext document transmitted in (a) is rendered by a web browser executing on the web client.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the selection criterion is taken from the group consisting of: a type of electronic consumer device controlled by the group of codesets, a brand of electronic consumer device controlled by the group of codesets, a geographical region where the group of

codesets is used, and a memory size required to store the group of codesets.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

(d) transmitting the selected plurality of codesets to the web client.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

(d) converting one codeset of the selected plurality of codesets into a plurality of strings of timing information; and

(e) transmitting the plurality of strings of timing information to the web client.

8. The method of claim 7, further comprising, after (d) and before (e):

(f) encrypting the plurality of strings of timing information, wherein the transmitting the plurality of strings of timing information in (e) involves transmitting the encrypted plurality of strings of timing information.

9. The method of claim 6, wherein one codeset of the selected plurality of the group of codesets is transmitted in (d) in the form of a plurality of strings of timing information, wherein the plurality of strings of timing information is associated with a plurality of functions of an electronic consumer device.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the electronic consumer device is taken from the group consisting of: a television set, a video cassette recorder, a digital video disk player, a stereo equalizer, a radio tuner, a set-top box

for receiving programming via a satellite, and a set-top box for receiving programming via a cable.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein one of the plurality of functions of the electronic consumer device is taken from the group consisting of: volume up, volume down, channel advance, channel back, cursor up, cursor down, cursor right, cursor left, select, play, record, stop, forward, back, pause, play VCR, play DVD, TV power on, and DVD and stereo equalizer power on.

12. The method of claim 7, further comprising:

(f) transmitting a signal engine to the web client; and

(g) loading the signal engine onto a microcontroller, wherein the signal engine generates an operational signal using one of the plurality of strings of timing information, and wherein the operational signal is associated with a function of an electronic consumer device.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the function of the electronic consumer device is taken from the group consisting of: volume up, volume down, channel advance, channel back, cursor up, cursor down, cursor right, cursor left, select, play, record, stop, forward, back, pause, play VCR, play DVD, TV power on, and DVD and stereo equalizer power on.

14. A computer-readable medium comprising program instructions for selecting codeset data by performing the steps of:

(a) transmitting from a web server a hypertext document, the hypertext document including an indication of a selection criterion of a group of codesets, wherein the group of codesets is stored in a central database of codesets;

(b) receiving onto the web server a designation of the selection criterion from a web client;

(c) selecting a plurality of codesets of the group of codesets using the designation of the selection criterion;

(d) converting one of the selected plurality of codesets into a plurality of strings of timing information;

(e) encrypting the plurality of strings of timing information; and

(f) transmitting the encrypted plurality of strings of timing information to the web client.

15. The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the plurality of strings of timing information is associated with a plurality of functions of an electronic consumer device.

16. The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein one of the plurality of functions of the electronic consumer device is taken from the group consisting of: volume up, volume down, channel advance, channel back, cursor up, cursor down, cursor right, cursor left, select, play, record, stop, forward, back, pause, play VCR, play DVD, TV power on, and DVD and stereo equalizer power on.

17. A system comprising:

(a) a web server that stores a database of codesets, the database of codesets comprising a first group of codesets, wherein server software is running on the web server, and the server software has access to the first group of codesets;

(b) a computer, wherein a web browser is running on the computer; and

(c) means for transmitting a hypertext document from the server software to the web browser, wherein the hypertext document includes an indication of a selection criterion for the first the group of codesets.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein the web browser is a mechanism for selecting the first group of codesets and for transmitting a designation of the selection criterion from the web browser to the server software.

19. The system of claim 17, wherein the selection criterion is taken from the group consisting of: a type of electronic consumer device controlled by the first group of codesets, a brand of electronic consumer device controlled by the first group of codesets, a geographical region where the first group of codesets is used, and a memory size required to store first the group of codesets.

20. The system of claim 17, wherein the database of codesets comprises a second group of codesets, and the means in (c) allows codesets to be selected that fall within both the first group of codesets and the second group of codesets.

21. The system of claim 17, wherein the means is an application layer program running on the web server.